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DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO AGENDA 21

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Integrating environment and development in decision-making

(Chapter 8 of Agenda 21)

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development, having examined the report of the Secretary-General on integrating environment and development in decision-making (E/CN.17/1996/11 and Add.1), notes the progress made at the national level in providing a framework that integrates economic, social and environmental policies.

2. The Commission recognizes that responsibility for bringing about changes aiming at integrating environment and development in decision-making lies with national Governments, and encourages Governments to establish national mechanisms, where appropriate, and to develop an integrated approach and participatory strategies for sustainable development, including economic, social and environmental aspects of growth.

3. The Commission requests organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to support the efforts of Governments to integrate environment and development in decision-making by, inter alia, strengthening coordination and exchange of information on "best practices" relating to sustainable development strategies.

4. The Commission calls on organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in cooperation with Governments and, as appropriate, major group organizations, to place a high priority on actions aimed at supporting national

coordination and planning activities related to the implementation of Agenda 21; consistent guidelines for national execution of projects and programmes should be provided to support this process.

5. The Commission calls on Governments to review, as appropriate, their national legislation in the light of the integrated nature of sustainable development and the need to implement international legal agreements and conventions. It requests the international community to continue and strengthen support for developing the capacities of developing countries for this purpose.

6. The Commission, having noted the work on integrated environmental and economic accounting being undertaken by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat, organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, and calls upon them, inter alia, to continue the work in this area, particularly with regard to methodological development and technical cooperation.

7. The Commission recalls the importance of integrated environmental and economic accounting for sustainable development, and encourages Governments to undertaken further national activities in this area.